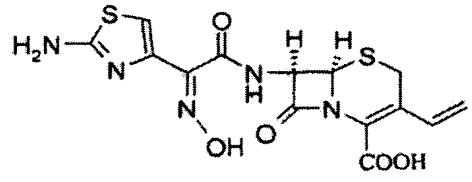
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

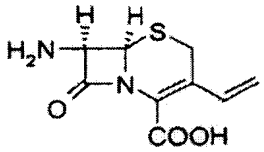
1. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of cefdinir of the formula (I):



(I)

comprising:

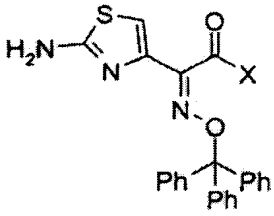
i) condensing 7-amino-3-cephem-4-carboxylic acid of the formula (XII):



(XII)

wherein R_1 is as defined above,

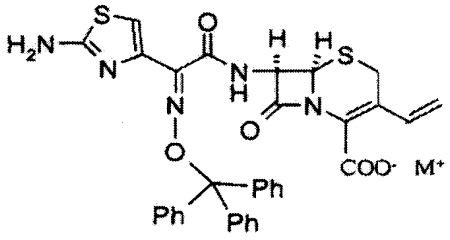
with a compound of the formula (XIII):



(XIII)

where X represents an activation group,

in the presence of a tertiary amine and a solvent, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of organic solvents and water, followed by treatment with a base to produce a salt of compound formula (XIV):

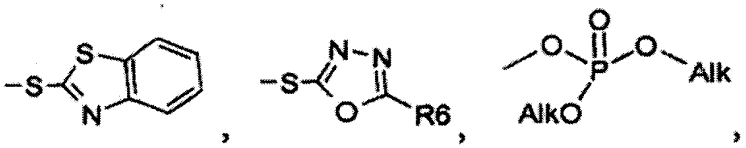


(XIV)

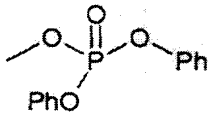
wherein M^+ is a counter ion; and

ii) hydrolyzing the compound of the formula (XIV) using an acid in the presence of a solvent to produce cefdinir of formula (I).

2. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein X is selected from the group consisting of ~~an ester functional group, a thioester functional group,~~ a chlorine atom, a bromine atom,



an iodine atom, and



where R_6 represents a (C_1-C_4)alkyl group or a phenyl group and Alk represents a (C_1-C_4) alkyl.

3. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 1, wherein the counter ion represented by M is selected from the group consisting of sodium, potassium, lithium, magnesium, ammonium, dicyclohexylammonium, N,N'-dibenzylethylenediammonium, ~~N,N'-diphenylethylenediammonium,~~ N,N-diisopropylethylammonium, and N,N-diisopropylammonium.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the tertiary amine is selected from the group consisting of triethylamine, N-methylpiperidine, N,N-diisopropylethylamine, and trimethylamine.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the solvent used in step (i) is selected from the group consisting of ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, THF, cyclohexanol, acetone, butan-2-one, acetonitrile, DMAc, water, and mixtures thereof.

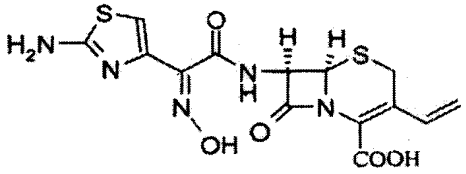
6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the solvent used in step (ii) is selected from the group consisting of acetone, 2-butanone, methanol, isopropanol, ethanol, THF, acetonitrile, DMAc, water, and mixtures thereof.

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of HCl, sulfuric acid, formic acid, acetic acid, and aromatic/aliphatic sulfonic acids.

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the compound of formula (I) obtained is a syn isomer.

9. (Canceled)

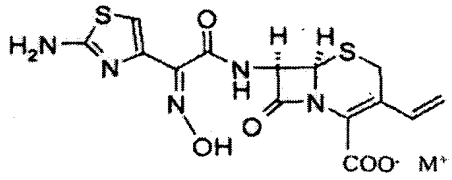
10. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of a novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by formula (I):



(I)

comprising:

hydrolyzing the compound represented by formula (XV):



(XV)

wherein M^+ represents a counter ion, comprising the steps of:

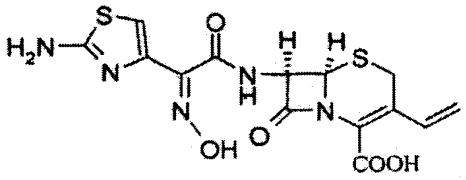
i) adding a solvent to a compound of formula (XV), wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of organic solvents and water,

ii) adjusting the pH of the resulting solution using an acid at a temperature in the range of 10 to 40 °C,

iii) cooling the resulting solution rapidly to -40 to 0 °C, and

iv) isolating the novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by formula (I).

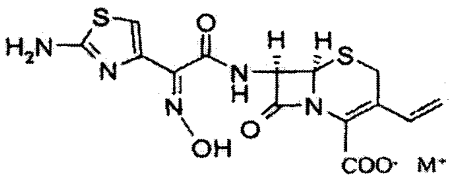
11. (Currently Amended) A process for the preparation of novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by formula (I):



(I)

comprising:

hydrolyzing the compound represented by formula (XV)



(XV)

comprising the steps of:

i) adding a solvent to a compound of formula (XV), wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of organic solvents and water,

ii) cooling the resulting solution to -40 to 0 °C and

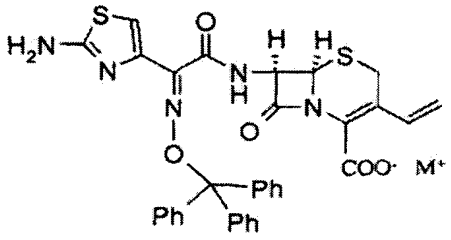
iii) adjusting the pH of the resulting solution by rapid addition of an acid at a temperature in the range of 10 to 40 °C, and

iv) isolating the novel amorphous monohydrate of cefdinir represented by formula (I).

12. (Currently Amended) The process according to claim 10, wherein the ~~organic~~ solvent is selected from the group consisting of acetone, 2-butanone, methanol, isopropanol, ethanol, THF, acetonitrile, DMAc, water and mixtures thereof.

13. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 10, wherein the acid is selected from the group consisting of HCl, sulfuric acid, formic acid, acetic acid, and aromatic/aliphatic sulfonic acids.

14. (Previously Presented) A compound of compound formula (XIV),



(XIV)

wherein M^+ represents a counter sodium ion or potassium ion.

15–16. (Canceled)